GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3086
ANSWERED ON:22.03.2002
CONSUMER CO OPERATIVES
PRAKASH V. PATIL

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

e:

(a) whether the consumer Co-operatives are performing their role effectively in the country in general and Maharashtra in particular;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Union Government are encouraging development of consumer co-operatives to protect the interest of common consumers; and

(d) if so, the number of consumer co-operatives opened in Maharashtra during the last three years?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD)

(a) & (b): The consumer cooperatives are performing their role quite effectively in the country, where the consumer cooperative movement is rather strong, particularly in Maharashtra. This is reflected in the growth in the sales handled by the consumer cooperatives during 2000-2001 which was Rs.5944.92 crores in the urban areas and Rs.5023.20 crores in the rural areas as compared to Rs.3282.78 crores and Rs.4784.00 crores respectively during the previous year.

(c) & (d): Government of India as well as the State Governments have adopted aspolicy to support and promote cooperatives as a distinct economic sector to be developed through community initiatives by harnessing people creative energy as autonomous de-centralised and voluntary organizations operating in accordance with the accepted cooperative values and principles. The consumer cooperative structure in Maharashtra as on 31.3.2001 is reported to be as under.

(i) State Federations 1

(ii) Wholesale/Central Cons. Coop. Societies 145

(iii) Primary Cons. Coop. Societies 3,507